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U.S. is behind spying, Poles allege

From Wire Services

Warsaw—Poland's martial law government charged yesterday that the United States was behind an "enormous" increase in spying in Poland and listed 10 Americans and a Pole allegedly involved in intelligence activities.

It said three were U.S. diplomats and eight were agents of the Central Intelligence Agency.

One of the Americans was a 30-year-old woman, identified as Leslie Sternberg, third secretary in the embassy's consular department.

Officials at a news conference said she was arrested last March in a car loaded with illegal brochures, leaflets and other documents published by a Polish anti-Communist organization, the Confederation of Independent Poland (KPN), and by the dissident organization KOR.

A television film screened for reporters showed police stopping the car and Polish officials interrogating Miss Sternberg. A commentary accompanying the film said she left the country the next day.

Other U.S. diplomats the officials identified as spies were Peter Burke, a second secretary ousted in 1979, and Michael Anderson, also a second secretary, who was seized in 1980.

The films also named Alicja Wesolowska, a Pole sentenced to prison in 1980 allegedly for spying for the CIA while working for the United Nations. She was not stationed in Poland, but was arrested while passing through.

In Washington, the State Department called the Polish charges ridiculous.

"The persons named appear to have been selected at random from among members of the U.S. Foreign Service serving in posts all around the world, and in at

least one case, a post that does not even exist," spokesman Rush Taylor said. "Nonetheless, it is the policy of the U.S. government not to respond to this kind of ridiculous allegation."

Col. Zbigniew Wislocki of the Polish counterintelligence service said the cases were just a few examples of extensive U.S. espionage in Poland.

"During the last two or three years, an enormous increase of activity of American intelligence has occurred, including classic intelligence acts," such as attempts to recruit Polish citizens, he said. He also said most recruitment attempts were being reported by Poles to the authorities.

The films, which are being shown as a series on Polish television, showed Mr. Anderson in the company of a prominent KOR member, Zbigniew Romaszewski, and Mr. Burke under arrest after picking up a message from in a hollow stone.